

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE GROUPING OF WARDS  
INTO DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**REPORT  
BY  
THE DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS COMMISSIONER  
DR MAURICE HAYES**

*Presented to Parliament  
pursuant to Article 5 of the District Electoral Areas Commissioner  
(Northern Ireland) Order 1984*

**BELFAST: HMSO**

**December 1992**



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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. BACKGROUND	2
3. CRITERIA	3
4. PRINCIPLES	4
5. PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	5
6. REPRESENTATIONS	6
7. PUBLIC INQUIRIES	7
8. REVISIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	10
9. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	13
10. CONCLUSION	14
APPENDICES	
I List of Final Recommendations	15
II Summary of Final Recommendations	29
III List of Maps	30
IV Options for District Electoral Area Structures	31



# INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I was appointed District Electoral Areas Commissioner on 7 July 1992 to review, in respect of each local government district, the grouping of local government wards into District Electoral Areas for the purpose of local government elections, and to submit a Report as soon as practicable setting out my recommendations on these groupings.
- 1.2 The provisions concerning the appointment and function of the Commissioner, the procedure he must follow in performing that function, and the rules in accordance with which the recommendations of the Commissioner are to be made are contained in the District Electoral Areas Commissioner (Northern Ireland) Order 1984 (hereinafter referred to as the 1984 Order).
- 1.3 The Review was necessary in order to establish District Electoral Areas for the purpose of local government elections, conducted by the single transferable vote system, following the review of local government boundaries confirmed by the Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 1992.
- 1.4 My task was to examine the number, boundaries and names of the existing District Electoral Areas in relation to the district and ward boundaries confirmed in the Local Government (Boundaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 1992; to review the available data; to consider any representations made; and to report to the Secretary of State.
- 1.5 The Review was split into two stages, the first being the publication of my Provisional Recommendations on 20 August 1992 inviting written representations or objections.
- 1.6 Consideration of the comments received, including oral representations at public inquiries, led to the second and final stage, namely, the submission of this Report to the Secretary of State setting out the Final Recommendations (Appendix I) together with the associated set of maps (Appendix III).
- 1.7 The Commissioner may ask the Secretary of State to appoint one or more Assistant Commissioners to inquire into and report to the Commissioner on such matters as the Commissioner thinks fit and to assist with any public inquiries. At my request the Secretary of State appointed Professor R H Buchanan, Mrs A Gibson, Professor N J Gibson and Mr C Ward, who had all acted in a similar capacity for the Local Government Boundaries Review.
- 1.8 I have also had the advice and support as Assessors of Mr P Bradley the Chief Electoral Officer and Mr R McMurray, Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. In addition my office has been staffed by a small group of civil servants seconded from the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.



# BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The last Review was carried out in 1984 and the present structure of 98 District Electoral Areas (DEA's) was established and confirmed in December 1984 following the submission of a Report to the Secretary of State by the then Commissioner, Sir Frank Harrison.
- 2.2 The 1984 Order requires that each DEA must consist of either five, six or seven local government wards, and each area returns as many council members as there are wards in the area (Appendix IV). In December 1984 50 five-seater Areas, 20 six-seater Areas and 28 seven-seater Areas were established.
- 2.3 Although the recent Review of the local government boundaries resulted in changes in a number of district and ward boundaries and created a net 16 additional wards, a number of local government districts had only minimal ward boundary adjustments; this resulted in minimal change to the existing DEA boundaries in these districts (for example, Armagh, Cookstown, Dungannon and Fermanagh).
- 2.4 Certain other districts experienced substantial ward boundary changes; but although this has led to a substantial change in the existing DEA boundaries, the overall DEA structure for each of these districts has largely been retained (for example, Belfast, Craigavon, Derry and Newry and Mourne).
- 2.5 The remaining districts have had major changes proposed to their existing DEA structures largely due to the establishment of one or more additional wards within the district which has in a small number of districts also necessitated the creation of an additional DEA (for example, Ards, Castlereagh, Coleraine and Lisburn).
- 2.6 The electoral base equates with that included in the Report of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner which recommended the new district and ward boundaries based on the February 1991 Electoral Register.



# CRITERIA

- 3.1 The rules and procedures under which the Commissioner must carry out the Review and make recommendations are set out in the Schedules for the 1984 Order and include:-
- (a) each DEA must consist of either five, six or seven local government wards;
  - (b) wards cannot be split between DEA's;
  - (c) each DEA must have a name;
  - (d) DEA boundaries must not be severed;
  - (e) within each DEA, individual wards must have at least one common boundary with another ward in that DEA;
  - (f) the publication of Provisional Recommendations;
  - (g) a period of one month to allow for the submission of written representations;
  - (h) the requirement to hold public inquiries in certain circumstances; and
  - (i) the need to consider all representations submitted prior to submitting a Report to the Secretary of State, as soon as practicable.



# PRINCIPLES

4.1 I decided at the start of the Review to adhere as far as possible to the following five main principles:-

- (a) minimal change generally to the existing DEA framework;
- (b) establish as far as practicable distinct urban and rural DEA's;
- (c) seek to ensure electoral equality within districts by establishing the ratio of electorate for each councillor within a  $\pm 5\%$  range when compared to the overall district electoral ratio per councillor;
- (d) wards to be grouped to facilitate the representational work of councillors within any district; and
- (e) ease of voting for the electorate.

4.2 As Local Government Boundaries Commissioner I had sought to take account of the physical size of districts; population; settlement patterns; topographical features and special geographic situations (lakes, rivers, mountains); sense of local community; and communication and transport links. I am satisfied that these factors are also important when establishing DEA boundaries and I have endeavoured to ensure that my Final Recommendations reflect a proper balance of all the various factors.

4.3 In framing my Final Recommendations I was also conscious of certain key observations made by my predecessor Sir Frank Harrison in his final report namely:-

"... in designing the local government district and ward boundaries I sought to marry the sense of local community identity with administrative practicality. In the Province the local communities are small, but deeply sensitive of the social, geographical and other factors which distinguish them from each other, and each local government district unit has been made up of wards as the bricks in the structure. To construct an electoral area which can also have a discernible community identity required, not only the grouping of the right number of wards, but also the best possible selection to create electoral areas readily identifiable by the electors within their bounds, and which would form local government constituencies in which the differing sections of each community could secure representation. In this present exercise, I endeavoured to secure as far as practicable urban and rural electoral areas which were distinct from each other and at the same time to avoid groupings which created an area "split" by major natural or physical barriers. I also sought to create constituencies of manageable size and which could be efficiently served by the elected representatives".

4.4 While changes in electoral boundaries may well have the effect of changing the pattern of political representation in subsequent elections this is not a matter of which the Commissioner may take cognizance. Political arguments carried much less weight than submissions based on the above principles .



# PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The procedure which the Commissioner must follow involved the publication of Provisional Recommendations. This was done on 20 August 1992. Written representations were invited within one month from publication following which public inquiries were held to allow for the presentation of further oral evidence.

5.2 At the Provisional Stage I proposed to increase the number of DEA's to 101, a net increase of three compared with the existing 98 areas established in 1984. My recommendations included 48 five-seater areas; 29 six-seater areas; and 24 seven-seater areas.

5.3 I saw no need to alter the DEA structure in the following ten districts and recommended that no change should be made to the existing groupings of wards in these districts:-

Armagh	Fermanagh
Ballymoney	Larne
Cookstown	Limavady
Down	Moyle
Dungannon	Omagh

5.4 In a further seven districts I recommended only minimal change to the existing groupings of wards:-

Antrim  
Banbridge  
Belfast  
Craigavon  
Derry  
Newry and Mourne  
North Down

5.5 In the remaining nine districts the existing DEA structure was adjusted substantially; an additional DEA was established in four (\*) of these, and in Newtownabbey the new ward structure resulted in a proposal for four DEA's instead of the existing five.

*Ards	*Lisburn
Ballymena	Magherafelt
Carrickfergus	Newtownabbey
*Castlereagh	Strabane
*Coleraine	

5.6 The Provisional Recommendations and associated maps were displayed at 70 locations, mainly at Council offices and local libraries, and were distributed to over one hundred interested groups and individuals including local councils, political parties, MP's, as well as associations and organisations linked to local government.



# REPRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 The publication of my Provisional Recommendations provided the opportunity to argue for three options: a substantially different grouping of the wards in any of the local government districts; minimal change; or the continuation of the present arrangement. Representations could be made, either in writing or orally at local Public Inquiries.
- 6.2 Written comments were invited on the Provisional Recommendations to be submitted by 28 September 1992.
- 6.3 About 40 written representations were received in respect of the Provisional Recommendations, mainly from local councils, individual councillors plus political parties.
- 6.4 No representations were received in respect of 14 local government districts and in a further seven districts only minimal comments were received. I decided that Public Inquiries were not therefore necessary in these districts.
- 6.5 Three local councils (Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Magherafelt) objected to my Provisional Recommendations. The holding of Public Inquiries in these districts was of course mandatory to allow the submission of further oral evidence.
- 6.6 Following consideration of the written comments I decided to hold a further two Public Inquiries (Derry and Strabane local government districts) due to the level of objections received from interested parties.
- 6.7 Coleraine Council objected to the proposed name for the Coleraine West DEA and initially suggested Coleraine DEA as an alternative name.
- 6.8 Consultation with all those involved in local government and with the public at large was an extremely important part of the review procedure and I was pleased with the level of public participation in the review process.



# PUBLIC INQUIRIES

- 7.1 A total of five Public Inquiries were held in relation to the following local government districts (LGD) during the period 4 November 1992 to 13 November 1992. All the Inquiries were well attended and I was greatly impressed by the level of representation and the manner in which very strongly held views were put forward.
- 7.2 The main issues raised are summarised briefly as follows:-

## BALLYMENA LGD

Written representations were received from the Council, Councillor T Nicholl and the former Town Clerk, Mr S McIlroy, objecting to the Provisional Recommendations. The two individual submissions supported the Council's proposed groupings and revised names which it was felt would provide a greater sense of community identity within the Borough. The Council's proposals differ from the Provisional Recommendations in four main ways: the Town is split between three DEA's; the largely urban Galgorm ward is included in the rural Bannside; the rural Kells ward is linked with the southern town wards; and an east-west rural structure is created by using the River Main as an effective boundary.

Seven representatives presented oral evidence including the Town Clerk and Chief Executive on behalf of the Council, Mr David Ford on behalf of the Alliance Party, individual councillors and members of the public. The major issues raised centred on the Council's proposals and can be summarised briefly as follows:-

### Dunminning/Cullybackey

It was argued that from a community aspect; geographically; and in terms of health, education and transport services Dunminning linked to the "triangle" villages of Cullybackey, Ahoghill and Portglenone and the wider Bannside area generally.

### Glenwhirry

The evidence presented at the Inquiry indicated very clearly that the extensive hill land around Slemish was not a barrier and that there were good economic and social links between Glenwhirry and Broughshane and that this community identity was more obvious than any connection with Kells.

### Kells

The Council proposals retained the link with the town but severed the established connection with Glenwhirry. At the Inquiry a further proposal arose linking Kells with the wider Bannside area. On balance the evidence at the Inquiry reinforced the community identity between Kells and the town and appeared to leave a choice between either:-

- (a) retaining the Provisional Recommendations;
- (b) accepting that Kells links with the town; or
- (c) severing the established Kells/Glenwhirry town link and include Kells with the wider Bannside.



### **Galgorm**

The evidence presented at the Inquiry was divided with only one strong representation suggesting that the ward should be rural based. Although the ward has a rural aspect it is heavily urbanised; appears to gravitate towards Ballymena; and this link to the town will undoubtedly increase through further planned development.

### **Ballymena Town**

The Council's proposals split the town into a north-south structure largely using the River Braid as a DEA boundary; excluded Galgorm; and included Kells in a direct linkage with Harryville and Ballee based on community identity, schools, transport communications and churches.

## **CARRICKFERGUS LGD**

Written representations were received from the local Council and the Alliance Party objecting to the Provisional Recommendations and suggesting that the existing DEA structure should be retained.

Five witnesses presented oral evidence at the Public Inquiry, all of whom were unanimous in their opposition to the Provisional Recommendations. The principal objection was the difficulty which would be encountered by local councillors in properly representing the proposed Carrick Middle DEA. Other issues raised included community identity, particularly in relation to Whitehead and Greenisland, plus the urban/rural fabric of the district.

All those attending the Inquiry agreed that the existing DEA structure, adjusted to include the two newly created wards, represented the best option, in line with the general principles already agreed.

## **DERRY LGD**

Although the Council did not object to the Provisional Recommendations the local Unionist Associations and Councillor Jim Guy objected to the proposed DEA structure and suggested that the Altnagelvin ward should be included in the proposed Rural DEA. Because of the strength of local feeling thus expressed, I thought it appropriate to hear the arguments at a Public Inquiry.

During the earlier LGBC Review areas such as Drumahoe and Tullyally were linked to the recognised urban areas within the City development limit in a restructured urban Altnagelvin ward which also includes the entire Hospital complex. This resulted in the creation of seven urban wards and six rural wards and the provisionally recommended DEA structure recognises this split.

Three witnesses presented oral evidence at the Public Inquiry and the only issue raised concerned the Altnagelvin ward in relation to its position in either the urban Waterside DEA or the Rural DEA.



The arguments for including Altnagelvin in the Rural DEA, presented by Alderman Adams and supported by Major Glover, hinged on the community identity of areas such as Drumahoe and Tullyally which were previously linked to rural areas and continued to have very strong rural links. This included rural development working groups, DARE projects, education plus rural based recreational and community activities.

On the other hand Councillor Gregory Campbell on behalf of the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party argued that the Hospital complex together with the surrounding housing developments particularly the new Knightsbridge development at Crescent Link are an integral part of the heart of the urban Waterside. In addition it was pointed out that if the Altnagelvin ward was to be included in the Rural DEA anomalous situations would arise whereby adjoining housing developments would be split between urban and rural areas and the resultant DEA boundary would be indistinct.

### **MAGHERAFELT LGD**

Written representations were received from the Council and the Rev W McCrea MP on behalf of the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party objecting to the Provisional Recommendations and suggesting that the Knockcloghrim ward should be retained in the Town DEA. The Council had resolved unanimously to make these representations.

Two witnesses presented oral evidence at the Public Inquiry and the objections to the Provisional Recommendations were unanimous. The major issues raised concerned the established links between Knockcloghrim and the town of Magherafelt as opposed to Moyola DEA, together with the need to retain the status of the town within a six-seater DEA.

### **STRABANE LGD**

Written representations were received from the Council, Sinn Fein, Alliance Party and a Mr McCay. Although the Council accepted the Provisional Recommendations on a majority vote the remaining three representations all objected to the provisional recommendation that Sion Mills should be included in the Derg DEA.

Five witnesses presented oral evidence at the Public Inquiry. The Chairman of the Council presented evidence on behalf of the Council and indicated that from a social, economic and educational aspect Sion Mills was a distinctive village, located in a rural setting which related more to the Derg area where it had been situated prior to 1985. Councillor Turner also emphasised the existing development limit and explained that the second phase of the Strabane by-pass would reinforce the definite split between Sion Mills and Strabane. He also referred to the Parliamentary boundary which separates Sion Mills, in the Mid-Ulster constituency, from the town of Strabane which is included in the Foyle constituency.

The remaining witnesses, including the Alliance Party representatives and Independent Councillor J J O'Kane, a former Chairman, raised a number of common issues which also centred on the historic, social, economic, educational and family links between Sion Mills and Strabane. This was reinforced by Councillor Barr who referred to various aspects of the Area Plan. They agreed unanimously that no such links existed with Castlederg or Newtownstewart. Additionally the northern part of the Sion Mills Ward had been linked to Strabane since 1972.



# REVISIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The level of response in 19 districts was minimal with no major adverse comments received. Individual Councils made no substantive comment except on six occasions when indicating support for the Provisional Recommendations. Public Inquiries were not held in relation to any of these districts and no revisions are proposed. The Provisional Recommendations are carried through to the Final Stage.
- 8.2 In one further district (Ballymoney) no comments were received except from the Alliance Party in relation to Seacon Ward which it felt should be included in the Town DEA. As all other interested parties appeared to be content I decided not to hold a Public Inquiry. In any event I was fully satisfied that Seacon had a rural focus and was properly included in the Bann Valley DEA. Again the Provisional Recommendations are carried through to the Final Stage.
- 8.3 Following consideration of the written evidence received together with the oral evidence presented at the Public Inquiries I decided to revise my Provisional Recommendations in five districts.
- 8.4 I think that it would be helpful if I explain very briefly these revisions:-

## **BALLYMENA LGD**

The Provisional Recommendations were based on the growth of Ballymena Town and its central position in the district. Retaining the 13 urban wards within two DEA's achieved a clear urban/rural split and emphasised this central position. In the rural area the extensive hill land around Slemish was recognised as a dominant geographical feature which influenced the shape of the rural ward groupings in a north-south structure.

The evidence presented at the Public Inquiry was very helpful and there was general agreement among all those present in relation to the Dunminning/ Cullybackey links with Bannside; the gravitation of Glenwhirry towards Broughshane and the Braid area generally plus the north/south split of Ballymena town along the river Braid. I am satisfied that the Council's proposals improve community identity and representational work of councillors.

However there was less agreement in relation to Kells and Galgorm. Based on the evidence submitted it is clear that Kells does not fit easily with either Glenwhirry or the wider Braid area. I am also satisfied that there is no strong linkage with Bannside and in any case the River Main and the railway present a formidable western boundary. I therefore agree that Kells although a rural ward identifies best with Ballymena Town for schools, transport and communication links.

While I recognise that part of the Galgorm ward clearly relates to the rural Bannside nevertheless the bulk of the ward is undoubtedly urban and gravitates towards the town. This urbanisation will increase and I am therefore satisfied that overall the ward should be retained within an urban DEA.



After careful consideration and based on the written and oral evidence submitted I have revised the Provisional Recommendations largely in line with the Council's proposals except in relation to Galgorm and some minor adjustments at ward level within the Town. This results in my Final Recommendations comprising two seven-seater DEA's and two five-seater groupings named Ballymena North, Ballymena South, Bannside and Braid.

### **CARRICKFERGUS LGD**

The Provisional Recommendations were based on a desire to create a good urban focus for the district by creating two urban DEA's which largely contained the town of Carrickfergus. However this resulted in the residual seven wards creating a DEA which local representatives emphasised lacked identity and could not be easily represented.

The objectors to the Provisional Recommendations were unanimous in proposing that the existing DEA structure would better facilitate the workload of councillors.

This was an important principle in my consideration of electoral areas and I therefore decided to revise the Provisional Recommendations in line with the overall representations made and largely retain the existing DEA structure comprising two six-seater DEA's and a five-seater grouping plus the existing names of Kilroot, Carrick Castle and Knockagh Monument.

### **COLERAINE LGD**

The Council objected to the proposed name for the Coleraine West DEA because some of the wards in the grouping were located East of the Bann. I accept that this may have proved confusing to the local electorate and have agreed with the Council that Coleraine Central DEA is a more appropriate name for this ward grouping.

### **MAGHERAFELT LGD**

The Provisional Recommendations centred on the earlier changes to the Knockcloghrim ward boundary during the review of local government boundaries which appeared to associate the Ward more closely to the Moyola area. The existing link with the town of Magherafelt also appeared to be substantially reduced.

The evidence presented at the Inquiry argued very strongly that Knockcloghrim linked historically, socially and economically with the town of Magherafelt, and would be best represented at local government level by being included in a six-seater Magherafelt Town DEA. This arrangement also underlines the status of the Town DEA as the largest in the district.

The resulting Moyola DEA boundary is not entirely satisfactory but I was convinced that the Provisional Recommendations should be revised to allow Knockcloghrim to remain in the Magherafelt Town DEA, in line with the representations.

The consensus among parties within the Council which led to the unanimous decision to seek to retain Knockcloghrim in the Magherafelt Town DEA was extremely helpful in assisting me reach my decision to revise the Provisional Recommendations and retain the existing DEA structure.



## **STRABANE LGD**

The rationale behind the Provisional Recommendations was to recognise the urban/rural structure within the district which resulted in Sion Mills being included in the Derg DEA at the Provisional Stage. This was made possible by the establishment of the additional ward (Ballycolman) in Strabane town under the earlier review of local government boundaries; this allowed the Mourne DEA to consist of five urban wards. I am satisfied that Sion Mills is a rural based ward, geographically separate from Strabane, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless there are links with Strabane, as indicated at the Public Inquiry, supported by the excerpts quoted from the Area Plan, and these links are historically, socially and economically stronger than any link with either Castlederg or Newtownstewart. Strong social links are also evident, and it would appear that the Sion Mills electorate largely depend upon Strabane town public representatives for advice and support. Indeed it was claimed that this representation would continue due to the proximity of Strabane town irrespective of which DEA Sion Mills was included in.

The comment about the Parliamentary constituency boundary is not part of my remit and in any event there is a review of the Parliamentary constituency boundaries pending.

The arguments were well presented and finely balanced. However I am persuaded by the representations made at the Inquiry indicating that Sion Mills be linked to Strabane town rather than the Derg area. I am satisfied that the Provisional Recommendations should be revised to allow Sion Mills to remain in the Mourne DEA; in effect this means retaining the existing DEA structure.

While I originally sought, wherever practicable, to establish distinct urban/rural DEA's, my Final Recommendation is in line with all my other self-imposed principles; and based on the evidence presented at the Inquiry it will facilitate the representational work of councillors which I consider to be one of the most important factors in grouping wards for electoral purposes.

## **DERRY LGD**

- 8.5 Finally, with regard to Derry LGD following careful consideration of the written and oral evidence I decided against further change.

While I have great sympathy with the arguments presented at the Public Inquiry in relation to Drumahoe and the related areas south of the Faughan in the context of a rural identity nevertheless they are within the City development limit and I have no doubt look to the Waterside socially and economically. Furthermore these areas are now linked at ward level to the established urban Altnagelvin electorate north of the Faughan and the Hospital complex which along with the Lisnagelvin shopping centre must be regarded as a fundamental focus of the urban development in this part of the city.

On balance therefore I am persuaded by the arguments that the recently established Altnagelvin ward is intrinsically linked with the urban area and should remain within the Waterside DEA.



# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Final Recommendations for each local government district are set out in Appendix I and an associated map series (Appendix III) outlining the recommendations is enclosed with this Report.
- 9.2 At this Final Stage I recommend that the number of DEA's increases to 101 which represents a net increase of three compared with the existing 98 DEA's established in 1984.
- 9.3 The recommended number of DEA's overall remains unchanged from the Provisional Recommendations and my Final Recommendations include 48 five-seater areas; 29 six-seater areas; and 24 seven-seater areas (Appendix II).
- 9.4 I have sought to keep the variation in the ratio of electorate per councillor within each district as small as possible. Ninety per cent of my Final Recommendations are within my self-imposed  $\pm 5\%$  range and 50% have been retained within a  $\pm 2\%$  range.
- 9.5 My Final Recommendations result in no change to the existing DEA structure in the following thirteen districts:-

Armagh	Larne
Ballymoney	Limavady
Carrickfergus	Magherafelt
Cookstown	Moyle
Down	Omagh
Dungannon	Strabane
Fermanagh	

- 9.6 In a further seven districts my Final Recommendations result in minimal change to the existing groupings of wards:-

Antrim  
Banbridge  
Belfast  
Craigavon  
Derry  
Newry and Mourne  
North Down

- 9.7 In the remaining six districts the Final Recommendations substantially change the existing DEA structure:-

Ards	Coleraine
Ballymena	Lisburn
Castlereagh	Newtownabbey

- 9.8 An additional DEA has been established in four districts (Ards, Castlereagh, Coleraine and Lisburn) while the new ward structure in Newtownabbey led me to establish four DEA's instead of the existing five.
- 9.9 The procedure now requires the Secretary of State to make an Order which gives effect, with or without modifications, to my Final Recommendations.



# CONCLUSION

- 10.1 I am grateful to all those who submitted written submissions and presented oral evidence at the various Public Inquiries during the Provisional Stage of the Review. The information presented to me was invariably based on extensive local knowledge and was invaluable in assisting my consideration of the various issues raised. The courtesy and good temper with which often very strongly held views were advocated was extremely helpful and this made the handling of the Public Inquiries very pleasant.
- 10.2 The drawing of boundaries is not an exact science and I have had to balance one set of considerations against another. I hope that the extent to which my Provisional Recommendations have been altered will reassure the public that the consultative process was meaningful.
- 10.3 I am most grateful for the advice and support of my Assessors. The assistance provided by the Director of Ordnance Survey and his staff, who have worked under pressure to prepare the map series, has also been particularly helpful.
- 10.4 The Assistant Commissioners all of whom were involved in the various Public Inquiries helped me greatly in coming to my final conclusions. Their co-operation and advice was most useful and I am greatly indebted to them for their assistance.
- 10.5 I also wish to express my gratitude for the part played by my staff all of whom were wholeheartedly dedicated to ensuring that the Review progressed efficiently and effectively. Every staff member has willingly worked under pressure contributing beyond what would normally be regarded as their ordinary duties in a sustained effort which has enabled the Review to be completed so speedily. I must however pay particular tribute to Mr Harry Baird who acted as Secretary to the Commissioner and Mr Trevor Gordon as Chief Professional and Technical Officer. I wish them and all other staff members every success in their future careers. I am also grateful to the Department of the Environment (NI) for making staff of this calibre available to me.
- 10.6 Finally, I feel that I should highlight a difficulty which arose during the Review due to the public perception of my role as DEAC in relation to my earlier appointment as Local Government Boundaries Commissioner (LGBC). Both the public and public representatives generally found it difficult to differentiate between the two Reviews.
- 10.7 While I am aware that the necessity for a two stage Review arises from the present legislative provisions and the division of responsibility for local government boundaries on the one hand and electoral arrangements on the other, between two Departments, nevertheless I hope that before the next Review consideration might be given to some consolidation of the procedure.
- 10.8 In my view the procedure relating to the establishment of local government boundaries and district electoral area boundaries would be improved if both the DEAC and LGBC Reviews were either combined in some way or at least dealt with in tandem. I believe that this would also ensure a much higher level of public participation and should also lead to a reduced timetable for the review of local government boundaries overall.

**DR MAURICE HAYES**  
**District Electoral Areas Commissioner**

25 November 1992



# APPENDIX I

## DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS COMMISSIONER

### FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(listed alphabetically)

#### ANTRIM Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Antrim North West	5	Cranfield Drumanaway Randalstown Shilvodan Toome	7,482
Antrim South East	7	Aldergrove Ballycraigy Clady Crumlin Farranshane Parkgate Templepatrick	11,170
Antrim Town	7	Balloo Fountain Hill Greystone Massereene Springfarm Steeple Stiles	11,285
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>29,937</b>

#### ARDS Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Ards East	6	Donaghadee North Donaghadee South Gregstown Loughries Millisle Movilla	12,891
Ards Peninsula	5	Ballywalter Carrowdore Kircubbin Portaferry Portavogie	10,383
Ards West	6	Ballygowan Comber East Comber North Comber West Killinchy Lisbane	12,267
Newtownards	6	Ballyrainey Bradshaw's Brae Central Glen Scrabo Whitespots	12,926
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>48,467</b>



**ARMAGH Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>	<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Armagh City	6	Abbey Park Callan Bridge Demesne Downs Observatory The Mall	9,699
Crossmore	5	Carrigatuke Derrynoose Keady Killylea Milford	7,691
Cusher	6	Hamiltonsbawn Killeen Laurelvale Markethill Poyntz Pass Tandragee	10,106
The Orchard	5	Ballymartrim Charlemont Hockley Loughall Rich Hill	8,501
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>35,997</b>

**BALLYMENA Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>	<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Ballymena North	7	Academy Ardeevin Ballyloughan Dunclug Fair Green Galgorm Park	12,004
Ballymena South	7	Ballee Ballykeel Castle Demesne Harryville Kells Moat Summerfield	12,151
Bannside	5	Ahoghill Cullybackey Dunminning Grange Portglenone	8,964
Braid	5	Broughshane Craigwarren Glenravel Glenwhirry Slemish	8,722
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>41,841</b>



**BALLYMONEY Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Ballymoney Town	5	Carnany Fairhill Glebe  Newhill Route	5,764
Bann Valley	6	Clogh Mills Dunloy Killoquin Lower  Killoquin Upper Seacon The Vow	6,519
Bushvale	5	Ballyhoe and Corkey Benvardin  Dervock Knockaholet Stranocum	5,174
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>17,457</b>

**BANBRIDGE Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Banbridge Town	6	Ballydown Banbridge West Edenderry  Fort Seapatrick The Cut	9,239
Dromore	5	Ballyward Dromore North Dromore South  Gransha Quilly	7,882
Knockiveagh	6	Bannside Gilford Katesbridge  Lawrencetown Loughbrickland Rathfriland	9,281
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>26,402</b>



# **BELFAST Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>		<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Balmoral	6	Blackstaff Finaghy Malone	Musgrave Upper Malone Windsor	23,718
Castle	6	Bellevue Castlevew Cavehill	Chichester Park Duncairn Fortwilliam	23,544
Court	5	Crumlin Glencairn Highfield	Shankill Woodvale	19,733
Laganbank	5	Ballynaseigh Botanic Rosetta	Shaftesbury Stranmillis	20,204
Lower Falls	5	Beechmount Clonard Falls	Upper Springfield Whiterock	20,344
Oldpark	6	Ardoyne Ballysillan Cliftonville	Legoniel New Lodge Water Works	26,296
Pottinger	6	Ballymacarrett Bloomfield Orangefield	Ravenhill The Mount Woodstock	24,879
Upper Falls	5	Andersonstown Falls Park Glencolin	Glen Road Ladybrook	22,164
Victoria	7	Ballyhackamore Belmont Cherryvalley Island	Knock Stormont Sydenham	29,830
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>51</b>			<b>210,712</b>



**CARRICKFERGUS Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Carrick Castle	5	Killycrot Love Lane Milebush Northland Sunnylands	6,847
Kilroot	6	Blackhead Bluefield Boneybefore Eden Victoria Whitehead	8,696
Knockagh Monument	6	Burleigh Hill Clipperstown Gortalee Greenisland Knockagh Woodburn	8,426
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>23,969</b>

**CASTLEREAGH Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Castlereagh Central	6	Cregagh Downshire Lisnasharragh Lower Braniel Upper Braniel Wynchurch	11,814
Castlereagh East	7	Ballyhanwood Carrowreagh Dundonald Enler Gilnahirk Graham's Bridge Tullycarnet	14,970
Castlereagh South	5	Cairnshill Carryduff East Carryduff West Knockbracken Moneyreagh	10,076
Castlereagh West	5	Beechill Galwally Hillfoot Minnowburn Newtownbreda	10,490
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>47,350</b>



### COLERAINE Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Bann	6	Agivey Castlerock Garvagh	Kilrea Macosquin Ringsend	9,743
Coleraine Central	6	Central Churchland Knocklynn	Mount Sandel The Cuts Waterside	10,194
Coleraine East	5	Ballysally Cross Glebe Dundooan	Dunluce University	7,952
The Skerries	5	Atlantic Hopefield Portstewart	Royal Portrush Strand	8,867
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>22</b>			<b>36,756</b>

### COOKSTOWN Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Ballinderry	6	Ardboe Coagh Killycolpy	Moneymore Stewartstown The Loop	8,105
Cookstown Central	5	Gortalowry Killymoon Newbuildings	Oldtown Tullagh	7,033
Drum Manor	5	Dunnamore Lissan Oaklands	Pomeroy Sandholes	6,341
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>16</b>			<b>21,479</b>



## CRAIGAVON Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Central	7	Bleary Drumgask Drumgor Edenderry Kernan Killycomain Taghnevan	15,127
Loughside	5	Aghagallon Court Derrytrasna Drumnamoe Woodville	10,995
Lurgan	7	Church Donaghcloney Knocknashane Magheralin Mourneview Parklake Waringstown	13,906
Portadown	7	Annagh Ballybay Ballyoran Brownstown Corcrair Tavanagh The Birches	13,845
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>53,873</b>

## DERRY Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Cityside	5	Beechwood Brandywell Creggan Central Creggan South Westland	9,833
Northland	7	Crevagh Foyle Springs Pennyburn Rosemount Springtown Strand The Diamond	15,018
Rural	6	Banagher Claudy Eglinton Enagh Holly Mount New Buildings	11,920
Shantallow	5	Ballynashallog Carn Hill Culmore Shantallow East Shantallow West	10,889
Waterside	7	Altnagelvin Caw Clondermont Ebrington Kilfennan Lisnagelvin Victoria	14,666
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>62,326</b>



**DOWN Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Ballynahinch	5	Ballymaglave Ballynahinch East Drumaness	8,721
Downpatrick	7	Ardglass Audleys Acre Ballymote Cathedral	12,122
Newcastle	6	Castlewellan Donard Dundrum	10,030
Rowallane	5	Crossgar Derryboy Killyleagh	9,032
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>39,905</b>

**DUNGANNON Local Government District**

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Blackwater	5	Aughnacloy Benburb Caledon	7,429
Clogher Valley	5	Augher Ballygawley Castlecaulfield	7,202
Dungannon Town	6	Ballysaggart Coolhill Drumglass	8,341
Torrent	6	Altmore Coalisland North Coalisland South	9,082
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>32,054</b>



## FERMANAGH Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Enniskillen	7	Castlecoole Devenish Erne Lisbellaw Portora Rossorry Tempo	11,918
Erne East	6	Brookeborough Donagh Lisnaskea Maguires Bridge Newtownbutler Rosslea	10,058
Erne North	5	Ballinamallard Belleek and Boa Irvinestown Kesh, Ederney and Lack Lisnarrick	8,159
Erne West	5	Belcoo and Garrison Boho, Cleenish and Letterbreen Derrygonnelly Derrylin Florence Court and Kinawley	8,466
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>38,601</b>

## LARNE Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Coast Road	5	Ballyloran Carncastle Carnlough Craigy Hill Glenarm	7,288
Larne Lough	5	Antiville Ballycarry Glynn Island Magee Kilwaughter	7,133
Larne Town	5	Blackcave Central Gardenmore Harbour Town Parks	7,686
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>22,107</b>



**LIMAVADY Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>	<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Bellarena	5	Aghanloo Ballykelly Glack Gresteel Magilligan	6,107
Benbradagh	5	Dungiven Feeny Forest The Highlands Upper Glenshane	6,093
Limavady Town	5	Coolessan Enagh Greystone Rathbrady Roeside	6,783
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>18,983</b>

**LISBURN Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>	<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Downshire	5	Ballymacbrennan Dromora Drumbo Hillsborough Maze	11,809
Dunmurry Cross	7	Collin Glen Derryaghy Dunmurry Kilwee Poleglass Seymour Hill Twinbrook	15,664
Killultagh	5	Ballinderry Glenavy Knockmore Maghaberry Moirra	11,408
Lisburn Town North	7	Ballymacash Ballymacoss Harmony Hill Lambeg Lisnagarvy Magheralave Wallace Park	15,753
Lisburn Town South	6	Blaris Hilden Hillhall Lagan Valley Old Warren Tonagh	13,817
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>68,451</b>



### MAGHERAFELT Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Magherafelt Town	6	Ballymaguigan Glebe Knockcloghrim	Lecumpher Town Parks East Town Parks West	9,303
Moyola	5	Bellaghy Castledawson Gulladuff	Upperlands Valley	7,930
Sperrin	5	Draperstown Lower Glenshane Maghera	Swatragh Tobermore	8,055
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>16</b>			<b>25,288</b>

### MOYLE Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Ballycastle	5	Bonamargy and Rathlin Dalriada	Glentaisie Kinbane Knocklayd	3,551
Giants Causeway	5	Ballylough Bushmills Carnmoon	Dunseverick Moss-Side and Moyarget	3,184
The Glens	5	Armoy Glenaan Glenariff	Glendun Glenshesk	3,704
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>15</b>			<b>10,439</b>



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## MOYLE Local Government District

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The Glens	5	Armoy Glenaan Glenariff	Glendun Glenshesk	3,704
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>15</b>			<b>10,439</b>



## NEWRY AND MOURNE Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Crothieve	7	Burren and Kilbroney Clonallan Derryleckagh	Mayobridge Rostrevor Seaview Spelga	13,097
Newry Town	7	Ballybot Daisy Hill Drumalane Drumgullion	St Mary's St Patrick's Windsor Hill	13,779
Slieve Gullion	5	Creggan Crossmaglen Fathom	Forkhill Silver Bridge	9,026
The Fews	6	Bessbrook Camlough Derrymore	Donaghmore Newtownhamilton Tullyhappy	10,342
The Mournes	5	Annalong Binnian Kilkeel Central	Kilkeel South Lisnacree	9,730
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>30</b>			<b>55,974</b>

## NEWTOWNABBEY Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards		Total Number of Electors
Antrim Line	7	Ballyhenry Burnthill Collinbridge Glebe	Glengormley Hightown Mallusk	15,436
Ballyclare	5	Ballyclare North Ballyclare South Ballynure	Ballyrobert Doagh	10,533
Macedon	6	Abbey Cloughfern Coole	Dunanney Valley Whitehouse	13,321
University	7	Ballyduff Carnmoney Hawthorne Jordanstown	Monkstown Mossley Rostulla	15,334
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>25</b>			<b>54,624</b>



## NORTH DOWN Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Abbey	6	Bangor Castle Bloomfield Conlig Harbour Rathgael Whitehill	12,910
Ballyholme and Groomsport	7	Ballycrochan Ballyholme Ballymacconnell Ballymagee Broadway Churchill Groomsport	15,126
Bangor West	7	Bryansburn Clandeboye Crawfordsburn Dufferin Princetown Silverstream Spring Hill	15,207
Hollywood	5	Craigavad Cultra Hollywood Demesne Hollywood Priory Loughview	10,537
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>53,780</b>

## OMAGH Local Government District

Name of Electoral Area	Number of Wards	Grouping of Wards	Total Number of Electors
Mid Tyrone	7	Beragh Drumnakilly Gortin Killiclogher Owenkillew Sixmilecross Termon	9,896
Omagh Town	7	Camowen Coolnagard Dergmoney Drumragh Gortrush Lisanelly Strule	10,615
West Tyrone	7	Clanabogan Dromore Drumquin Fairy Water Fintona Newtownsaville Trillick	10,100
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>30,611</b>



**STRABANE Local Government District**

<b>Name of Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Wards</b>	<b>Grouping of Wards</b>	<b>Total Number of Electors</b>
Derg	5	Castleberg Clare Finn Glenderg Newtownstewart	8,055
Glenelly	5	Artigarvan Dunnamanagh Plumbridge Slievekirk Victoria Bridge	7,560
Mourne	6	Ballycolman East North Sion Mills South West	9,619
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>25,234</b>



## APPENDIX II

### SUMMARY OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Local Government District	Number of Wards	Number of Electoral Areas	Number of wards in electoral areas		
			5	6	7
Antrim	19	3	1	-	2
Ards	23	4	1	3	-
Armagh	22	4	2	2	-
Ballymena	24	4	2	-	2
Ballymoney	16	3	2	1	-
Banbridge	17	3	1	2	-
Belfast	51	9	4	4	1
Carrickfergus	17	3	1	2	-
Castlereagh	23	4	2	1	1
Coleraine	22	4	2	2	-
Cookstown	16	3	2	1	-
Craigavon	26	4	1	-	3
Derry	30	5	2	1	2
Down	23	4	2	1	1
Dungannon	22	4	2	2	-
Fermanagh	23	4	2	1	1
Larne	15	3	3	-	-
Limavady	15	3	3	-	-
Lisburn	30	5	2	1	2
Magherafelt	16	3	2	1	-
Moyle	15	3	3	-	-
Newry and Mourne	30	5	2	1	2
Newtownabbey	25	4	1	1	2
North Down	25	4	1	1	3
Omagh	21	3	-	-	-
Strabane	16	3	2	1	-
Totals	582	101	48	29	24



# APPENDIX III

## DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS COMMISSIONER FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### LIST OF MAPS

#### NORTHERN IRELAND INDEX MAP

#### MAP 1 – NORTHERN AREA:

Antrim	Larne
Ballymena	Limavady
Ballymoney	Magherafelt
Coleraine	Moyle
Derry	

#### MAP 2 – WESTERN AREA:

Cookstown	Omagh
Dungannon	Strabane
Fermanagh	

#### MAP 3 – GREATER BELFAST AREA:

Ards	Lisburn
Belfast	Newtownabbey
Carrickfergus	North Down
Castlereagh	

#### MAP 4 – SOUTH EASTERN AREA:

Armagh	Down
Banbridge	Newry and Mourne
Craigavon	



# APPENDIX IV

## OPTIONS FOR DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA STRUCTURES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT	DEA WARD GROUPINGS (DECEMBER 1984)				DEA WARD GROUPINGS (DECEMBER 1992)				OPTIONS FOR DEA WARD GROUPINGS				
	NO. OF WARDS	NO. OF DEA's	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF WARDS	NO. OF DEA's	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA	NO. OF SEATS IN EACH DEA
LARNE LIMAVADY MOYLE	15	3	5, 5, 5	15	3	5, 5, 5	5, 5, 5						
BALLYMONEY COOKSTOWN	16	3	5, 5, 6	16	3	5, 5, 6	5, 5, 6						
MAGHERAFELT STRABANE	15	3	5, 5, 5										
BANBRIDGE CARRICKFERGUS	15	3	5, 5, 5	17	3	5, 6, 6	5, 6, 6						
ANTRIM	19	3	5, 7, 7	19	3	5, 7, 7	5, 7, 7						
OMAGH	21	3	7, 7, 7	21	3	7, 7, 7	7, 7, 7						
ARMAGH DUNGANNON COLERAINE	22 21	4 3	5, 5, 6, 6 7, 7, 7	22	4	5, 5, 6, 6	5, 5, 6, 6						
ARDS CASTLEREAGH DOWN FERMANAGH	20 21 23	3 3 4	6, 7, 7 7, 7, 7 5, 5, 6, 7	23	4	5, 6, 6, 6 5, 5, 6, 7	5, 6, 6, 6 5, 5, 6, 7						
BALLYMENA	23	4	5, 5, 6, 7	24	4	5, 5, 7, 7	5, 6, 6, 7						
NEWTOWNABBEY	25	5	5, 5, 5, 5, 5	25	4	5, 6, 7, 7	5, 5, 5, 5, 5						
NORTH DOWN	24	4	5, 6, 6, 7										
CRAIGAVON	26	4	5, 7, 7, 7	26	4	5, 7, 7, 7	5, 7, 7, 7						
DERRY LISBURN NEWRY & MOURNE	30 28 30	5 4 5	5, 6, 6, 6, 7 7, 7, 7, 7 5, 5, 6, 7, 7	30	5	5, 5, 6, 7, 7	5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5						
BELFAST	51	9	5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 7	51	9	5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 7	5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6						



